

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated July 31, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended, Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled, Claims 13-19 have been withdrawn, and Claim 20 has been newly added, leaving Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 20 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of original Claim 5. The amendment to Claim 6 was made to correct a dependency error introduced by the amendment to Claim 1. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The elements of Claim 5 have been added to Claim 1. Thus, amended Claim 1 is Claim 5 rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits that Claims 1 as amended is in condition for allowance.

Applicant submits that Claims 2-3 and 6-12 are allowable at least due to their dependency on Claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Boucek et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,905,024 (hereinafter "Boucek"). The rejection to Claim 4 is moot because Claim 4 has been canceled.

As indicated above, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Applicant submits that Claims 2-3 and 6-9 are patentable at least due to their dependency on Claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boucek in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2005/0289120 to Soulanille et al. (hereinafter "Soulanille"). Applicant submits that Claim 10 is patentable at least due to its dependency on Claim 1.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boucek in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,802,359 to Webb et al. (hereinafter "Webb"). Applicant submits that Claim 11 is patentable at least due to its dependency on Claim 1.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boucek in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0051122 to Sato (hereinafter "Sato"). Applicant submits that Claims 12 is patentable at least due to its dependency on Claim 1.

Conclusion

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

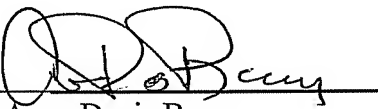
In the event the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment or believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially request to telephone the undersigned.

In the event that there are any additional fees with respect to this Amendment, Applicants' attorneys respectfully request that such fees be withdrawn from Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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